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silver springs

STATE PARK

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Illinois Department of Conservation
life and land together

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THE PARK

In 1970, the State of Illinois acquired 1,250 acres near the village of Yorkville and south of Plano in Kendall County for a new state park. Citizens had often requested more state park recreational areas in this densely populated northern part of the state, which is only 13 miles west of Aurora and 50 miles west of Chicago. Subsequent land acquisition brought the total park acreage to 1,314, of which 30 is water.

NATURAL FEATURES

Silver Springs State Park was named after a small pool of bubbling clear water in the nature study area. The pool, bordered by beds of watercress, never freezes, even during extreme cold periods.

The Fox River runs through this very picturesque area. Seven small lakes border the river in the nature area. Three months after the original land acquisition, the park was opened for limited use, mostly fishing and picnicking. In the midst of extensive development, a devastating tornado struck the park in June 1974. The park was closed for extensive cleanup and repairs until December, when it opened for winter use.

Native wildflowers and songbirds, pheasants and migratory waterfowl provide added enjoyment for the park visitors. Often deer are spotted in the wildlife viewing area at the east end of Big Lake.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Areas at the park entrance and along the river are set aside for picnicking. Picnic tables and park grills are provided and a water hydrant is north of the main parking lot. Pit toilets are on the grounds.

Fishing: The small lakes, the largest of which is 16-acre Silver Springs, offer fishing for channel catfish, bass, bluegill and some trout. Canoes or motors are not allowed on the lakes.

The Fox River provides bank fishing as well as boat fishing. There is no motor limit. However, small motors are recommended due to the shallowness of the river. Fox River offers a variety of fish including largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, carp, pike, sauger and sucker.

Trails: A scenic nature trail, 1½ mile long, winds along the river and between the lakes.

Wildlife Viewing Area: The newly constructed viewing area, at the east end of the park near Big Lake, provides an excellent place for bird watchers and nature clubs in season.

Winter Sports: Sledding, ice fishing and ice-skating are enjoyed when weather conditions permit.

Camping: An area is provided for youth group camping that will accommodate 150. Groups of over 25 must have advance permission to enter the park. Contact the park ranger.

Please: This area is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container. No plants or parts of any tree may be removed or damaged. If you need help or have a question, contact the ranger.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this park, contact Ranger, R. R. 1, Box 255, Yorkville, Illinois 60560. Phone 312/553-6297. For more information on other Illinois sites, write Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

park map

FOX RIVER

Canoe Access Point
(Car-Top only)

Parking Area

Fox View Picnic Area

Picnic Area

Parking Area

Trail Entrance

Rest Area

Silver Springs

Nature Trail

Rest & Observation Area

Ranger's Res.

Tall Oaks Picnic Area

Parking Area

Shelter

FOX RIVER

Cedar Ridge Youth Group Camping Area

Lake View Picnic Area

Wildlife Viewing Area

Main Entrance

Fox Road

Parking Area

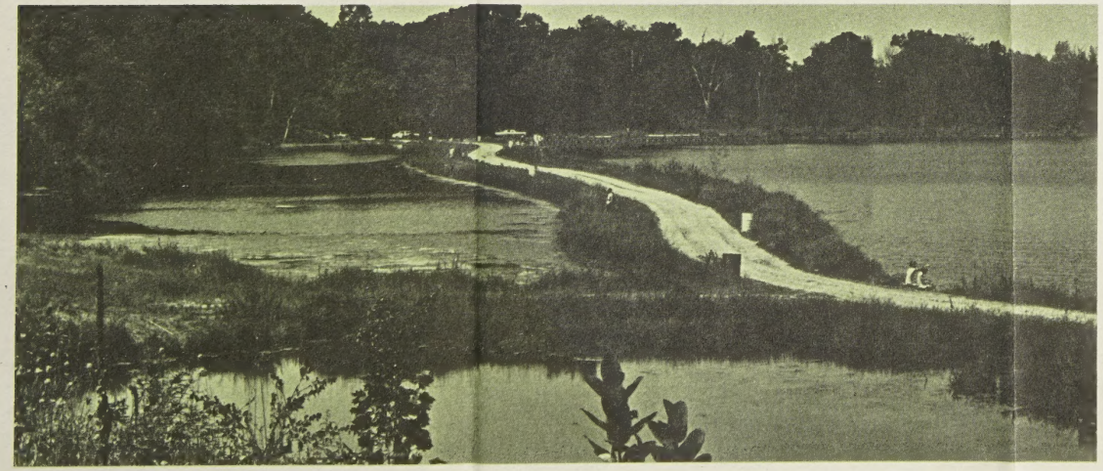
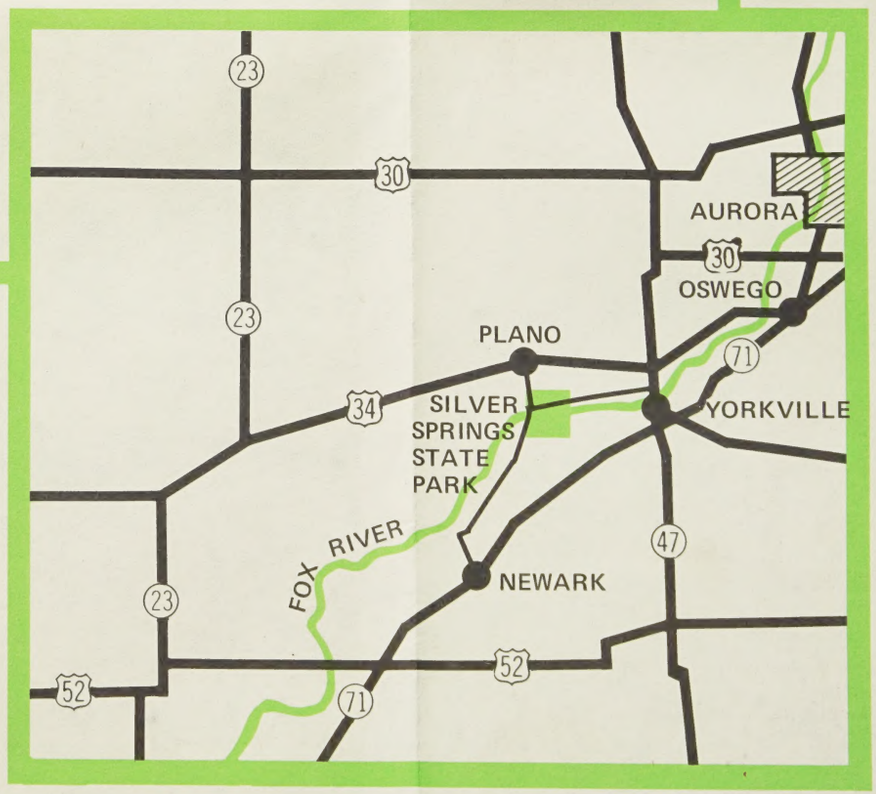
Wildlife Management Area

Fox River Road

Ranger's Office

Yorkville 5 Mi. →

Wildlife Management Area

Plano - 2 Mi. →

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